

The Office Action requires election of one of 147 species for initial prosecution on the merits. The Office Action states that:

Species 1 – Species 147 correspond to Physiological Functions designated as 1-147, respectively, in claim 75. Therefore, Species 1 corresponds to Physiological Function 1, Species 2 corresponds to Physiological Function 2, Species 3 corresponds to Physiological Function 3 . . .”

(Office Action at page 2).

In view of the Office Action's statement that “Species 4 corresponds to Location/Physiological Function 4 . . .”, Applicants assume that the Office Action requires Applicants to elect a species of “Location/Physiological Function”. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to notify undersigned if this presumption is incorrect, in which event Applicants shall modify the election made herein.

Applicants provisionally elect herein Group 116, wherein “Location” is ventromedial hypothalamus and “Physiological Function” is food intake.

Applicants understand the present election requirement to be for searching purposes only, and that should the elected species be found to be allowable, the full scope of the generic claims will be examined. In any event, Applicants reserve the right to prosecute the claims encompassed by any of the non-elected groups in one or more continuing applications.

Information Disclosure Statements

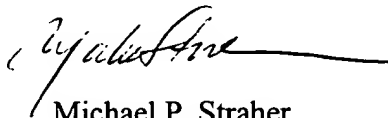
Applicants note that the Patent Office has not yet returned initialed copies of the Information Disclosure Statement submitted July 8, 1998, or the Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement submitted May 3, 2002 (copies of the above-identified Form 1449's are attached hereto along with stamped return postcards indicating receipt by the Patent and Trademark Office). Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner initial the attached Form 1449's and return same to Applicants.

Drawings

Applicants submitted a formalized version of Figure 12 with the Response to Office Action filed November 13, 2000. Applicants note, however, that no indication has been received from the Patent and Trademark Office that Figure 12 has been accepted. Applicants respectfully request confirmation that Figure 12 is acceptable.

The examination of these claims and passage to allowance are respectfully requested. An early Notice of Allowance is therefore earnestly solicited. Applicants invite the Examiner to contact the undersigned at (215) 564-8950 to clarify any unresolved issues raised by this response.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael P. Straher
Registration No. 38,325

Date: August 2, 2002

WOODCOCK WASHBURN LLP
One Liberty Place - 46th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19103
(215) 568-3100

Attachments:

- Copy of Form 1449 mailed July 8, 1998, and return postcard
confirming receipt
- Copy of Form 1449 mailed May 3, 2002, and return postcard
confirming receipt